

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04625 020515Z

14
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 MCT-01 SY-05

IO-13 /091 W
----- 040309

R 021407Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6346
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KU
SUBJ: ARRESTED LABOUR LEADERS RELEASED ON BAIL AND MEET WITH
DEPUTY PRIMIN

REF: (A) KUWAIT 4597, (B) KUWAIT 4561

1. KUWAITI PRESS (AL WATAN, SEPT 30), REPORTS THAT EIGHT LABOUR
LEADERS ARRESTED DURING PAST TWO WEEKS WERE ALL RELEASED ON BAIL
SEPT 29. PRESS ALSO INDICATES LEADERS MET AT THEIR REQUEST WITH
DEPRIMIN/MININFO JABER AL ALI OCT 1, AND THAT THEY WILL ASK
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TO MEET WITH CROWN PRINCE/PRIMIN AS WELL (AL SIYANAH, OCT 2).

THEY REPORTED TO HAVE SOUGHT MEETING WITH DEPPRIMIN IN ORDER TO "CONFIRM THEIR FAITH IN THE HOMELAND". DEPPRIMIN REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS HE AGREED TO MEETING BECAUSE IT IS KUWAITI "CUSTOM" TO TALK THINGS OVER, IN ACCORD WITH "OUR HISTORY BUILD ON LOVE AND TOLERANCE" (AL SIYASAH OCT 1).

2. COMMENT: WHILE THE RELEASE FROM CUSTODY OF THE EIGHT LABOUR LEADERS DOES NOT ACCORD WITH OUR FIRST UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S PLANS FOR THEM, IT PROBABLY WAS A WISE MOVE. THEIR RELEASE ON BAIL SHOULD LESSEN THE INTENSITY OF ANY DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN CRITICISM OF THE GOK OVER THE ARRESTS, WHICH STILL COULD BECOME A TOUCHY ISSUE INTERNATIONALLY AS NOTED REF A (THOUGH WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY FOREIGN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE ARRESTS TO DATE). ALSO, THE GOK APPARENTLY RISKS LITTLE IN LETTING THE ARRESTEES OUT ON BAIL--THEY APPEAR TO BE EFFECTIVELY SILENCED, GIVEN THE NEW CONTROLS ON THE PRESS, STATE SECURITY PROSECUTIONS REPORTEDLY PENDING, AND THEIR LABOUR UNION JOBS ENDANGERED. ONE PRESS REPORT SUGGESTS THAT THE GOK MAY NOT PROCEED WITH PROSECUTIONS AT ALL IF LABOUR LEADERS GIVE UNDERTAKING OF "GOOD BAHAVIOR", WHICH WOULD NO DOUBT INVOLVE PROMISE NOT TO CRITICIZE GOK.

MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1976
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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